

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05 /094 W

-----025873 101109Z /11

P R 101005Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2050

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMCONSUL DURBAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 4610

FROM LOW

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, PINT, PINS, RH

SUBJECT: THE SECURITY SITUATION

1. WHILE THE SECURITY SITUATION IN RHODESIA CONTINUES TO
DETERIORATE, IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO BELIEVE THAT THE
RHODESIAN DEFENSE FORCES ARE LIKELY TO LOSE CONTROL IN THE
NEAR FUTURE AND A SUDDEN BLOOD BATH AND CONSEQUENT MASS
EXODUS OF WHITES OCCUR. TENSION IN FARMING AREAS IS
GROWING ALONG WITH THE NUMBER OF ATTACKS ON RELATIVELY SOFT
CIVILIAN TARGETS. A FEW INCIDENTS HAVE OCCURRED IN AFRICAN
AREAS OF SALISBURY AND BULAWAYO AND ZAPU CONTACTS HAVE TOLD
US THAT THERE WILL SOON BE A SHARP INCREASE IN URBAN
TERRORISM. THERE IS A SLOW AND GRADUAL GROWTH IN THE
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BOLDNESS OF GUERRILLA ATTACKS ON DEFENDED TARGETS BUT
FEW IF ANY ARE ACTUAL MILITARY INSTALLATIONS.

2. I AM INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT THE SECURITY
FORCES STILL VERY MUCH CONTROL THE SITUATION WHEREVER
THEY ARE PRESENT AND THAT A DIRECT CHALLENGE TO THEM IS STILL
SOME TIME AWAY - PROBABLY NOT UNTIL NEXT YEAR. I DO NOT

SEE, THEREFORE, A LIKLIHOOD OF AN EARLY COLLAPSE OF MORALE
AND MASS FLIGHT FROM THE COUNTRY OF WHITES WHICH
HAS BEEN SUGGESTED IN SOME PRESS REPORTS.
EDMONDSON

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NNN

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